

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Original): An aqueous coating agent comprising:

a water dispersion (C) prepared by dispersing resin particles containing a water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) and at least one compound selected from a hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) and a hydrophobic polyether polyol (B-2) in water, and

a crosslinking agent (D) capable of reacting with a hydroxyl group,

wherein the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) is obtained by reacting a polyester polyol (a-1) which is obtained by condensing a dicarboxylic acid containing an aromatic dicarboxylic acid as a main component with a polyol, with a polyisocyanate, and also contains 15 to 35% by weight of an aromatic cyclic structural unit based on the weight of the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A), and

wherein the hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) and/or the hydrophobic polyether polyol (B-2) are liquid at normal temperature and contain 20 to 50% by weight of an aromatic cyclic structural unit.

Claim 2 (Original): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the total content of a urethane-bond unit and a urea-bond unit per 1000 g of the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) is within a range from 1.0 to 4.0 mols.

Claim 3 (Original): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) is obtained by condensing a dicarboxylic acid with an aliphatic diol having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, and orthophthalic acid accounts for at least 60 mol% of the total

amount of the dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 4 (Original): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic polyether polyol (B-2) is a propylene oxide adduct of a polynuclear phenol compound.

Claim 5 (Original): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) is obtained by reacting a polyester polyol (a-1), which is obtained by condensing a dicarboxylic acid with a polyol, with a polyisocyanate, and at least one compound selected from terephthalic acid and isophthalic acid accounts for 70 to 100 mol% of the total amount of the dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 6 (Original): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) and the hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) or the hydrophobic polyether polyol (B-2) are not substantially chemically-bonded.

Claim 7 (Original): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent (D) is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of an amino resin and a polyisocyanate.

Claim 8 (New): An aqueous coating agent comprising:  
a water dispersion (C) prepared by dispersing in water resin particles containing a water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) and a hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1); and  
a crosslinking agent (D) capable of reacting with a hydroxyl group;

wherein the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) is obtained by reacting a polyester polyol (a-1) with a polyisocyanate, the polyester polyol (a-1) being obtained by condensing a dicarboxylic acid containing an aromatic dicarboxylic acid as a main component with a polyol; the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) contains 15 to 35% by weight of an aromatic cyclic structural unit based on the weight of the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A); and, the hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) is liquid at normal temperature and contains 25 to 35% by weight of an aromatic cyclic structural unit.

Claim 9 (New): An aqueous coating agent comprising:

a water dispersion (C) prepared by dispersing in water resin particles containing a water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) and at least one hydrophobic polyol (B) selected from a group consisting of a hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) and a hydrophobic polyether polyol (B-1); and

a crosslinking agent (D) capable of reacting with a hydroxyl group;

wherein the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) is obtained by reacting a polyester polyol (a-1) with a polyisocyanate, the polyester polyol (a-1) being obtained by condensing a dicarboxylic acid containing an aromatic dicarboxylic acid as a main component with a polyol; the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) contains 15 to 35% by weight of an aromatic cyclic structural unit based on the weight of the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A); the hydrophobic polyester polyol (B-1) and/or hydrophobic polyether polyol (B-2) are liquid at normal temperature and contain 25 to 40% by weight of an aromatic cyclic structural unit.

Claim 10 (New): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl value of the hydrophobic polyol (B) is within a range of 20 to 500.

Claim 11 (New): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl value of the hydrophobic polyol (B) is within a range of 50 to 400.

Claim 12 (New): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the mixing ratio (A)/(B) between the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) to the hydrophobic polyol (B) is within a range of 95/5 to 50/50.

Claim 13 (New): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the mixing ratio (A)/(B) between the water-dispersible polyurethane resin (A) to the hydrophobic polyol (B) is within a range of 90/10 to 70/30.

Claim 14 (New): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the number average molecular weight of the hydrophobic polyol (B) is within a range of 200 to 4000.

Claim 15 (New): The aqueous coating agent according to claim 1, wherein the number average molecular weight of the hydrophobic polyol (B) is within a range of 250 to 2000.